

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4-12, 14-16, and 23 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for administering conferencing resources in a communications system ~~comprising a plurality of terminals and a conference server~~, the method comprising:

transmitting from a first terminal to ~~the~~ a conference server a first message comprising a request for a resource capable of sustaining a conference call;

allocating by ~~means of~~ the server a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call; and

transmitting from the server to the first terminal a second message comprising the network address,

wherein the communications system includes a plurality of terminals and the conference server.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 further comprising ~~the step of~~ transmitting from the first terminal to at least one other terminal a third message comprising the network address.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 further comprising initiating connections from the first terminal and the said other terminal to the network address to establish a conference call between the first terminal and the said other terminal.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3 wherein the step of transmitting the third message further comprises transmitting from the first terminal to at least two other terminals the third message comprising the network address; and wherein the initiating step further comprises initiating connections from the first terminal and the said other terminals to the network address to establish the conference call between the first terminal and the said other terminals.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein in the first and second transmitting steps, the messages are SIP messages.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5 wherein in the step of transmitting from a first terminal to the server, the first message is an INVITE message.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5 wherein in the step of transmitting from the server to the first terminal, the second message is a redirection message.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5 2, wherein in the step of transmitting from the first terminal to at least one other terminal, the third message is a REFER message.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein in the step of allocating by the server, the network address is a uniform resource identifier.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein in the step of allocating by the server, the network address is a dynamically generated uniform resource identifier.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 further comprising ~~wherein on establishment of the conference call the resource merges~~ merging data transmitted to the network by each of the terminals that are parties to the conference call on establishment of the conference call by the resource.

12. (Currently Amended) A conference server for administering conferencing resources ~~in a communications system comprising a plurality of terminals~~, the conference server comprising:

a receiver unit ~~for receiving~~ configured to receive from a first terminal a first message comprising a request for a resource capable of sustaining a conference call;

an allocation unit ~~for allocating~~ configured to allocate a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call; and

a transmission unit ~~for transmitting~~ configured to transmit to the first terminal a second message comprising the network address,

wherein the conference server administers conferencing resources in the communications system, wherein the communications systems includes a plurality of terminals.

13. (Original) A communications system comprising a conference server as claimed in claim 12, and a plurality of terminals including the first terminal.

14. (Currently Amended) A communications system according to claim 13 wherein the first terminal is ~~adapted~~ configured to transmit to at least one other terminal a third message comprising the network address.

15. (Currently Amended) A communications system according to claim 14 wherein the first terminal and the said other terminal are ~~adapted~~ configured to initiate connections to the network address to establish a conference call between the first terminal and the said other terminal.

16. (Currently Amended) A communications system according to claim 15 wherein the first terminal is ~~adapted~~ configured to transmit to at least two other terminals the third message comprising the network address; and wherein the first terminal and the said other terminals are ~~adapted~~ configured to initiate connections to the network address to establish a conference call between the first terminal and the said other terminals.

17. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 13 wherein the messages are SIP messages.

18. (Original) A communications system according to claim 17 wherein the first message is an INVITE message.

19. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 17 [[or claim 18]] wherein the second message is a redirection message.

20. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 17 wherein the third message is a REFER message.

21. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 13 wherein the network address is a uniform resource identifier.

22. (Original) A communications system according to claim 21 wherein the network address is a dynamically generated uniform resource identifier.

23. (Currently Amended) A communications system according to claim 13 wherein ~~on establishment of the conference call the resource is adapted~~ configured to merge data transmitted to the network by each of the terminals that are parties to the conference call, on establishment of the conference call.